

The Sun

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For the friends who favor us with manuscript for publication we have to state that we must in all cases send stamps for our paper.

How Is It Now?

While millions of dollars are being added to wages distributed generally through the country the Boston Herald selects two interesting comparisons:

"The two great industries that lead the production of property are the cotton and the woolen, and in both of these the advances carry the wages of the employees beyond the boom rates of 1894."

The boom rates of 1893, it will be remembered, were slaughtered in cold blood by the wage-earners themselves, under various slogans of inflated rot aimed at capital.

That was done by the campaign of 1892. Will the campaign of 1900 see that folly repeated? We don't think.

The Expanding South.

Comparing the poverty, the depleted population, the primitive condition of the transportation systems of the South at the close of the Civil War with its present state, the *Manufacturers Record* of Baltimore gives this strong but not exaggerated picture of Southern prosperity:

"To-day the South has \$1,000,000,000 invested in manufacturing, with an annual output valued at \$1,500,000,000, and paying \$250,000,000 in wages. Its cotton mills, with 5,000,000 spindles, representing an investment of \$100,000,000, already consume yearly 1,400,000 bales of cotton. It is producing about 2,600,000 tons of pig iron a year, 40,000,000 tons of coal, from 10,000,000 to 11,000,000 bales of cotton, probably 10,000,000,000 feet of lumber, and 70,000,000 bushels of grain, and its railroads, steadily improving and increasing in length, have already a 50,000 miles."

Prosperity and going forth to prosper. This vast and growing production must have new and wider fields of distribution. That is why the South, by many commercial bodies, by some of its statesmen, and apparently by the general feeling of its planters and its merchants, asks for the markets of Asia and consequently that the Philippines shall remain in the possession of the United States. Westward to the East the course of Southern empire takes its way.

On account of slavery the South objected to the admission of California. Her new and mightier wealth, more enduring and diversified than her old, makes expansion even beyond California a necessity to her. For that reason, among others, the business men and cotton planters of the South are resigned in advance to the defeat of BRYAN. They prefer business to Bryanism.

Duration of the South African War.

The prediction made by Sir ROBERT CAMPBELL at the Canadian Society's dinner in New York on Tuesday evening, that "the Transvaal war will be over in ninety days," may turn out to have been true, but the opinion of the gentleman on the subject has no real value. He is a Canadian doing business as a merchant in New York and is not in the way of finding anything more about the situation in South Africa, military or political, than is discoverable by the run of people.

No man who wishes to maintain a trustworthy reputation for military or political judgment will venture to set such a limit, or any other precise limit, to the war with the Boers. Too many elements enter into the question. As the outlook now is, however, a much longer war than ninety days seems probable, if not inevitable. The determination of England to persist in the contest continues relentless, and up to this time all the events of the war have tended to stimulate a like determination in the Boers. England, moreover, is making ready for the possibility of prolonged hostilities. The raising, equipping, transportation and training of the great bodies of troops, largely raw levies, which she is preparing to send to South Africa, will occupy much time necessarily. Lord Roberts leaves for the field of war next Saturday, but it will be about the middle of January before he reaches it, and the new campaign upon which he is expected to enter may not begin before February. The strategic defects of the past campaign, which he goes to remedy, whether they were caused by bad generalship or the domination of military movements by purely political considerations, are radical in their division of the British forces, and may necessitate longer delay than the getting ready for an original campaign would have taken. He is the most illustrious of British generals, but he is not superhuman, and the advantages already secured by the Boers will be difficult to overcome with the fresh troops supplied to him.

Unquestionably he has proved himself a resourceful and a successful soldier, but his long military experience has been confined to warfare with peoples very different from the Boers. His first distinguished service was in the Indian Mutiny, for which he received, in 1858, the Victoria Cross for personal bravery. In the Abyssinian campaign, ten years later, his service was as Assistant Quartermaster General. In the Afghan campaign he was in chief command and returned to England to be loaded with honors as a victor and to be created a Baronet. In the first war with the Boers, in 1881, he saw no service, it having ended before his arrival to take the command of the British troops in Natal and the Transvaal, in succession to Sir GEORGE COLLIER. He cannot, therefore, be called an expert in the sort of war in which he will now engage against the Boers. Neither can Gen. KITCHENER, who has been appointed his Chief of Staff, be so regarded. It is true that before the British army as a Lieutenant of Engineers he saw some service in 1870 as a volunteer on the French side in the Franco-German War, but probably it was slight. His real military experience has been wholly in Egypt, against enemies in fighting whom he cannot be said to have acquired the best training in the methods of civilized modern warfare. Gen. BULLER, on the other hand, had experience in the Chief of Staff to Sir EVELYN WOOD, and accordingly there was good reason for his selection for command in the present war. Assuming, however, the distinguished titles of Lord Roberts and Gen. KITCHENER

for the task intrusted to them, as we may well do, it is evident from the enormous extent of the preparations that a severe, and, it may be, a long trial of their quality is not a contingency unprovided for by the War Office. The fall of Consoles below par indicates that it is the opinion of financial England, also, that a large war loan is inevitable, and the excitement over recruiting in both England and its colonies is suggestive of belief in a prolonged contest. The very circumstance that the most illustrious General of the British army has been appointed to take charge of the new campaign, with the General whose recent fame has become world-wide as his chief of staff, affords further evidence of the extreme gravity of the situation. England is now putting its best foot forward, exerting its ability to the utmost. It cannot afford to risk a repetition of the disasters which have befallen Whitte, Barmley, Murray and Buller, thus inviting the derision of Europe. Its military prestige is at stake, the endurance of the British Empire is under trial before all the world.

Such terrible responsibilities will have a tendency to create caution in the face of an enemy heretofore dangerously underestimated. A carefully laid out campaign seems, therefore, to be assured, involving time in perfecting the plans and arrangements for it. The peril of failure is too great for England to take any risks she can avoid, no matter how long she has to wait in order to organize success. Accordingly the campaign, so far as the British forces already in the field are concerned, seems now to be at a standstill, awaiting the completion of the preparations for the new campaign, and unless they are forced to resist the aggressive activity of the Boers it is likely to be continued.

Even if the Boers are compelled by Lord Roberts to retire from their present positions and from an aggressive campaign to fall back upon their own country to conduct a purely defensive war, such a change in the situation does not now seem to be possible before February at the earliest, even if it is not delayed until a month later; for we assume that, with strengthened forces, the British will be able, in a new campaign, to retrieve the disasters of the last, so far as to drive back the Boers to their own soil. After this is accomplished, however, the end of the war may be yet far off, for that population of farmers, all practically under arms, without the exigencies of a complex civilization to distract and disturb them, may be able to continue a long resistance as the defenders of a country naturally adapted to successful defence and bristling with artificial fortifications.

A prudent man, therefore, will be very careful about committing himself to a conclusion as to the length of time the war in South Africa will last, and even as to its outcome. The only thing that is certain is that the British Empire is straining its military resources and taxing its military ability to the utmost to force the contest to an end, but the very magnitude of the preparations is suggestive of the expectation of long delay in carrying them to a successful issue.

How Far is Germany Pledged to England?

The announcement that a second detachment of white troops from the Anglo-Indian army is to be sent to South Africa suggests that there may be some solid ground for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's reference to an Anglo-German alliance, and that the British Government may have received from Berlin the assurance that Russia will not be permitted to take advantage of England's present situation. How otherwise would the authorities at London and Calcutta venture a second time to weaken the troops mainly relied upon for the defence of British India, when the despatch of reinforcements thither from the United Kingdom would be out of the question?

It is estimated that six weeks hence England will have placed in South Africa under the command of her most prominent General about one hundred and eighty thousand men. The total will include every regular soldier that can be spared from the United Kingdom, besides detachments from the yeomanry, militia and volunteers with, in addition, colonial contingents, and two divisions of the white troops belonging to the Anglo-Indian army, the latter aggregating some twenty-five thousand men. That all of these soldiers will be needed in South Africa is evidently believed at the British War Office, otherwise they would not be sent there. Suppose, however, that, while all of these troops are fully occupied in that quarter, there should break out in India an insurrection, fomented by Russia and assisted by an army of invasion? England would then, obviously, find herself in most unpleasant dilemma. She could either have to face the assaults of her Indian Empire with a force seriously depleted by the recent drafts upon it, or if she sent reinforcements thither from the Cape, she might have to renounce the plan of operations by which she hopes to overcome the Boers. That was what happened to her in 1783. She had to acknowledge the independence of her American colonies because she could not undertake to fight them, after France and Spain had intervened in the struggle, and after the so-called League of Neutral had subjected her to moral coercion.

What indications are there that England may presently find herself in a similar predicament? She would be, undoubtedly, in grave jeopardy if the German Empire were to make a party to an anti-British coalition, or even if it would pledge itself to remain strictly neutral. That Russia, as certain as the conquest of British India is as certain as that she aims at the occupation of Constantinople. Steadily during the last thirty years her outposts and her railways have been pushed southward through Central Asia until they are now within striking distance of Herat, of Kabul and of Cashmere. If a promising opportunity for the invasion of India should be offered, the Czar NICHOLAS II., could no more resist the forward pressure of his people, than could his grandfather ALEXANDER II., avoid the war with Turkey in 1877-78. The Russian strategists at St. Petersburg and Tashkent have long maintained that, after the completion of the Trans-Caspian Railway, an invasion of India would be practicable whenever the British army of British white troops in that country should be materially diminished, and should also be incapable of reinforcement. Those conditions exist to-day, and, if the opportunity is missed, it may not recur for a century. That is the way in which Russian military authorities may be expected to argue, and they cannot be effectually answered except by the demonstration, or the well-founded apprehension, that, if a Russian army were to cross the Himalayas, a German army might cross the Alps.

Even a war in Afghanistan and Hindoostan

would strain severely Russia's financial resources, but that burden might be borne in view of the importance of seizing an occasion which might never be offered again. The Russian treasury, however, would collapse under the double load of a war with England in Asia and a war with Germany in Europe. Russia, indeed, might derive some assistance from France, but the French warships would be quickly swept from the ocean, and the land forces of the French Republic would be offset by those of Austria and Italy. While, moreover, Russia was staggering under the cost of military operations in Europe and Central Asia, her naval arsenals at Vladivostok and Port Arthur, upon which she has expended so much money, would probably be captured by a British fleet. That risk, no doubt, she might confront if at the present juncture all her military strength could be concentrated upon an invasion of India, but, as we have seen, if Germany has returned to a policy of neutrality, three-fourths of the Czar's army would have to be reserved for the defence of Poland.

We arrive at the conclusion that England's predicament must present to Russian military experts the strongest possible temptation, and that they might succumb to it, had not the St. Petersburg Government been informed that the German Empire could not view with indifference a Russian invasion of India.

Sunshine.

This part of the country has recently been favored with an unusual amount of sunshine. The Weather Bureau's latest sunshine map, for September, shows that over a wide area, including New York, from 60 to 80 per cent. of the sunlight hours were unobscured by clouds, as large a percentage as is recorded even in some of the summer months. In December, a year ago, the percentage of sunshine hereabouts was only 40 to 50 per cent., much less than it has been since this month. Sunshine is an important element, and a good deal of it is a great blessing, but when long succession of cloudless days brings relief to the verge of a water famine, as it has Brooklyn, it is paying dear for pleasant weather.

Our coast population seems many more cloudy days than do the inhabitants of the far interior because it lives near the ocean, the great source of clouds and rain. But in September our whole Atlantic coast from Boston to Jacksonville had more bright weather than any part of the Great Lake region and as many hours of sunshine as the plains of western Nebraska and Kansas. This is a most unusual record for our Atlantic seaboard and it has been maintained between September and the middle of this month. As a rule, prairie regions have more sunshine, the year round, than any of our coast States except the southern half of California. Even in the recent long period of minimum cloudiness the Eastern States have not equalled the arid regions of the far West and Southwest, over 80 per cent. of whose daylight hours are usually brilliant with sunshine.

We might have liked a little more rain but, after all, the sunshine has been glorious, conferring a special beneficence upon out-of-door life, work or play.

Cyclometers, Birthdays and Centuries.

We have here two communications that throw light on the strange fancy that the year to be known as 1900 will be the first of the twentieth century. One is from a wheelman:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: My way of reasoning makes the twentieth century begin Jan. 1, 1900. To me it seems identical with a man riding twenty centuries on a bicycle. The cyclist starts with his odometer at zero—the beginning of the Christian Era year 1, if you please. At the end of the first mile the cyclistometer registers one mile—the end of year 1, A. D. This continues just the same until the last centimeter of the bicycle, and when the cyclistometer registers 1,000 miles the cyclist begins on his 1001st mile, consequently on the twentieth century.

Just so with time. Jan. 1, 1900, the calendar indicates 1900. The 1900th year has been completed and the 1901st year begins on Jan. 1, 1901, or the twentieth century. Geo. W. CLARK, MICHIGANVILLE, N. Y.

The other argues to the same effect in connection with birthdays:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read in your paper with astonishment that there is any further controversy about when the twentieth century begins. When a man writes himself 100 years old, or, in other words, when he reaches his hundredth birthday, he has completed 100 years of his life and has entered upon it in his second century. When he celebrates his 101st birthday, he has already been in his second century one year, and has completed 101 years of his life. So exactly, when we begin to write 1900 years of the Christian Era, we have completed 1900 years of it and have entered upon the twentieth century. F. G. HARTER, New York, Dec. 19.

So, the date 1900 will not denote truly the year which will begin with next January, but the year in which we are in now! And 1899 refers to last year, not to this! Here we imagine is the key to the curious calculations that begin the next century with the coming year.

Mr. CLARK describes the doings of a cyclistometer correctly. The appearance of 1900 on the dial signifies that the 1900th mile is done, and that he has begun the 1901st. Mr. HARTER reckons men's years correctly also. For reasons of convenience and from a desire not to obtrude too precisely the measurement of one's age, the custom is to call a man as old as the number of years he has passed, not both years and the additional days. Time, however, is not counted on the plan of the cyclistometer and birthday table.

On the morning of the coming January 1, friends will say "Happy New Year." The newspapers will announce the "opening" of the new year. What year? The year to be numbered eventually on the calendar as 1901? No. It will be the year numbered 1900, the 1900th year, the last year of the nineteenth century. New Year's Day will be known as Monday from the moment it begins. No one will be waiting until the dawn of Tuesday before calling New Year's Day Monday. The first month of the new year will be known as January from the start. People will not wait until February has come before they write January in their date lines. The year also will be known immediately by its proper and ultimate number, 1900, the year which begins. People will not wait until it is over that is, until 1901, before they put 1900 on their letterheads. The date 1900 will show that we are in the year so numbered and not beyond it.

Such is the difference between the system of counting by cyclistometers and birthdays, and the almanac.

and throwing their weight into international business. Writers on international law and politics ought to make special chapters upon the functions of Aldermen in international relations and perturbations.

The sculptors in their meeting night before last saved the idea of how the city could be beautified. The general character of their scheme would surely accomplish its purpose, and would be costly. But the cost up to a very large extent, no doubt, would be profitable.

I do not ask if, in very truth, we must drain the chalice of Eastern sovereignty.—The Hon. CHARLES JOSEPH BONAPARTE of Baltimore.

CHARLES JOSEPH BONAPARTE of Baltimore. The last drop. We recommend him to drink heartily and look pleasant.

It has been the habit of the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee to call it together on Jackson Day or on Washington's Birthday, but the Hon. JAMES K. JONES has an opportunity to make a precedent. The proper day for the meeting of his committee is Bryan Day or Agassiz Day.

The Hon. JOHN WALTER SMITH, who was elected Governor of Maryland last fall, was reported absent and not paired when the Currency bill was passed by the House of Representatives. Presumably Mr. SMITH is paired with himself. He was elected Governor on a non-commitment platform and is supposed to be a gold man.

THE DANGER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The danger which has been threatening ever since the war in South Africa broke out seems coming to a head. Gen. Forester-Walker at Cape Town, in a despatch to the British War Office, reports attacks by the Boers on the Barmagwato paramount chief, Khama, near Belika, in the country to the northwest of the Transvaal, and on one of the subordinate chiefs, Linchwa, near Sekwani on the Transvaal frontier not far from Gaborone, lately reported occupied by a Rhodesian force. This is in retaliation for the employment against the Boers by Col. Purnell and Khama's men, of which mention was made some time ago and commented on. It is unfortunate that this should be the more so that the natives of Basutoland, Tumbuland and other thickly populated native districts are reported highly excited over the continuous defeat of the British. In Basutoland the Boers have been reported to have openly declared his sympathy with the Boers, and has only been prevented from joining them by the influence of the paramount chief, Letherodi, who is trying to keep his people neutral to avoid having either British or Boer troops marching through his country. It is also said that the Boers are reported to be taking advantage of the prevailing confusion and looting indiscriminately, and the railway district that place and Indwe in the Drakensberg district has been badly damaged by the Boers in circumstances Gen. Gaisere's sphere of action.

It is quite evident that unless some arrangement is come to between the two belligerents to abstain from employing or countenancing the employment of any of the native races in their military operations, what Gen. Forester-Walker reports is the beginning of the end of the British position in South Africa. The Boers, if they are in the country to the north and east of Maseru are reported to be taking advantage of the prevailing confusion and looting indiscriminately, and the railway district that place and Indwe in the Drakensberg district has been badly damaged by the Boers in circumstances Gen. Gaisere's sphere of action.

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THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

The New Return to the Government and the Louisiana Purchase.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your Philadelphia correspondent of Dec. 18 has gathered up in brief space a number of interesting facts with respect to the Public Domain. But there have been a few inaccuracies, which I beg to correct. Your correspondent has given the amount usually quoted as the cost of the Louisiana Purchase, viz: \$27,297,621.08, and the acreage involved in the purchase as 760,001,280 acres.

The volume compiled under direction of Mr. Thomas Donaldson entitled the "Public Domain" gives these sums, but a more recent and accurate document, the "History of the Louisiana Purchase," by Mr. Binger Hermann, present Commissioner of the General Land Office, the result of much research on the part of the Commissioner, throws out of the count the Oregon country, for reasons set forth in his book, and reduces the value of the Louisiana Purchase to \$55,109,080 acres. The original Louisiana Purchase contained, approximately, 571,873,920 acres, but this was reduced to the true figure again by excluding the area west of the Rocky Mountains, and also that east of the Mississippi, which latter by Col. Purnell and Khama's men, of which mention was made some time ago and commented on. It is unfortunate that this should be the more so that the natives of Basutoland, Tumbuland and other thickly populated native districts are reported highly excited over the continuous defeat of the British. In Basutoland the Boers have been reported to have openly declared his sympathy with the Boers, and has only been prevented from joining them by the influence of the paramount chief, Letherodi, who is trying to keep his people neutral to avoid having either British or Boer troops marching through his country. It is also said that the Boers are reported to be taking advantage of the prevailing confusion and looting indiscriminately, and the railway district that place and Indwe in the Drakensberg district has been badly damaged by the Boers in circumstances Gen. Gaisere's sphere of action.

The subject has been, as your correspondent says, but there is no fairness in adding to that the interest paid subsequently on the 6 per cent. bonds, amounting to \$8,259,353. This was a charge growing out of the purchase, and, as we had possession of the territory from that date, the interest should have been included in valuing the value of the land per acre. Using, then, the true area as given by Mr. Hermann, 555,109,080 acres, and the true purchase price, \$155,000,000, we get the price paid as about 2 1/2 cents per acre, instead of 3 1/2 cents per acre, as given in Donaldson's "Public Domain."

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CANADA AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

A New Danger Imposed Upon This Continent by Canadian Participation in the Boer War—A Warning to This Country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: That feature of the South African War which particularly interests the United States is the official, and aggressive, participation in a trans-Atlantic war by Canada.

By this act, Canada deliberately flouts the Monroe doctrine, abandons its protection, sets itself in opposition to the settled policy of the nations of the American continent, invites European aggression, ceases to be a peaceful neighbor and a non-combatant, and is immediately guilty of meddling in the affairs of the old continent and of slaying its own citizens of the State with which Canada has no cause for war; and the penalty of the meddling fool will be Canada's penalty. Chamberlain's folly seems wisdom when compared with Laurier's blundering. Chamberlain had at worst, the incentive of avarice—lust for power, lust for gold, lust for territory, lust for glory, but overruling vanity and that "vaunting ambition which o'erleaps itself and falls on the other."

Heretofore Canada has been absolutely safe from the peril of war—as safe as an infant from the struggles of men. We would no more think of aggression against Canada than against Delaware; and, so long as Canada kept the peace, the Monroe doctrine covered it with its protecting folds and it could rest in the most absolute security, protected by the power and might of both the United States and Great Britain. Its territory was safe and its shipping was secure. The Monroe doctrine was Canada's happy safety now at an end. Hereafter the Monroe doctrine applies to Canada's protection only thus far: that the United States cannot permit a foreign power to annex permanently a part of Canada.

But the United States cannot now protest or object if Canada, at her will, chooses to seize